



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 13 May 2008

Current Nationwide
Threat Level is



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- Agence France-Presse reports that U.S. authorities rushed into disaster areas Monday after tornadoes left tens of thousands without power. Some 43,000 people across Georgia were without power early Monday, down from 253,000 at the peak of the outages. (See item [2](#))
- According to the Associated Press, a hazardous materials response team was called to a freight facility near Los Angeles International Airport Saturday after an air cargo container holding low-grade radioactive material was exposed. (See item [19](#))

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Fast Jump

Production Industries: [Energy; Chemical; Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste; Defense Industrial Base; Dams](#)

Service Industries: [Banking and Finance; Transportation; Postal and Shipping; Information Technology; Communications; Commercial Facilities](#)

Sustenance and Health: [Agriculture and Food; Water; Public Health and Healthcare](#)

Federal and State: [Government Facilities; Emergency Services; National Monuments and Icons](#)

Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: ELEVATED, Cyber: ELEVATED

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://www.esisac.com>]

1. *May 12, Chemical & Engineering News* – (Louisiana) **Refiner and pipeline companies plan large Gulf Coast chemical investments.** The largest U.S. oil refiner, Valero, is considering a massive aromatics complex. Awaiting approval from Valero's board is a new \$2.1 billion aromatics complex at its St. Charles, Louisiana, refinery. The project includes a reformer, which will convert low-octane naphtha into high-octane reformate. Downstream from the reformer, the company will construct units to extract benzene, toluene, and p-xylene. The company says the project will address the Environmental Protection Agency's Mobile Source Air Toxics rule, which requires the reduction of benzene levels in gasoline from about one percent to 0.62 percent by 2011. The project

is a large step into petrochemicals for Valero, which makes modest amounts of aromatics and propylene as refining by-products.

Source: <http://pubs.acs.org/cen/news/86/i19/86i19notw3.html>

2. *May 11, Agence France-Presse* – (Georgia; Missouri; Oklahoma) **Aid rushed in after tornadoes.** U.S. authorities rushed aid to disaster areas Monday after a series of tornadoes tore across the U.S., leaving tens of thousands without power. Emergency federal aid was promised for Missouri, Oklahoma, and Georgia. Some 43,000 people across Georgia were without power early Monday, down from 253,000 at the peak of the outages, Georgia Power told the Atlanta Journal Constitution.
Source: http://afp.google.com/article/ALeqM5iZx_mPdtbYLnNwU6TsciNupnLEig
3. *May 10, Associated Press* – (New Mexico) **NM regulators approve oil and gas pit rule.** The New Mexico Oil Conservation Commission has approved a tougher rule for oil and gas pits across the state. The rule restricts the use of pits for on-site waste disposal at drilling operations. It also regulates below-grade tanks and the use of closed loop systems during oil and gas operations. Advocates of the tougher regulations had said unlined or poorly lined pits threaten water quality and the health of humans, livestock, and wildlife. Industry groups had fought the proposed rule, saying it would be too costly and result in less drilling. The president of the New Mexico Oil and Gas Association said the commission listened to the industry's concerns and made changes before approving the rule. For example, he said, dirt under the pits will not have to be cleaned to the degree that it meets drinking water standards for chloride levels and developers will have options for handling pit waste regardless of their proximity to a licensed disposal facility.
Source: http://news.aol.com/story/_a/nm-regulators-approve-oil-and-gas-pit/n20080510033709990015

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Chemical Industry Sector

4. *May 12, Agence France-Presse* – (International) **Bhopal activists in India want Dow Chemical to pay for clean-up.** Activists for victims of India's 1984 Bhopal gas leak said Monday that as the owner of the former Union Carbide, Dow Chemicals should pay for a clean-up before doing any new business in the country. Dow Chemicals, which bought Union Carbide in 1999, 15 years after toxic gases leaked from a plant in Bhopal in central India on the night of December 3, 1984, is not "immune" to responsibilities of compensation, said an activist of the International Campaign for Justice in Bhopal. The gas leak, described as the world's worst industrial accident, occurred when a storage tank at a Union Carbide India pesticide plant spewed deadly cyanide gas into the air in Bhopal, killing more than 3,500 slum dwellers immediately. The death toll has since climbed to more than 15,000, the government says. Survivors and activists want U.S. giant Dow Chemical to pay for the clean-up and health damages. Dow says all liabilities were settled in 1989 when Union Carbide paid \$470 million to the Indian government to be allocated to survivors and families of the dead. But local court cases in India have since challenged Dow's stand and called for more compensation for victims as well as

for the environmental damage.

Source: http://afp.google.com/article/ALeqM5i5v04pZy7F_rf2yY_JTNMwZ-CftQ

5. *May 12, Newburyport Current* – (Massachusetts) **Newburyport paint, stain manufacturer settles with EPA for hazardous chemical violations.** Newburyport, Massachusetts manufacturer Valspar Corp. has paid a \$266,800 penalty as a part of a settlement of an enforcement action brought by the Environmental Protection Agency for violations of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) and the Emergency Planning and Community-Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA). Valspar manufactures paints and stains, which are sold under the Samuel Cabot name, at the facility. In the FIFRA portion of the complaint, EPA alleged that Valspar sold or distributed unregistered pesticide products, specifically, “Cabot SPF 1 Cleaner and Conditioner” and “Cabot Problem Solver Wood Cleaner” from March 2006 to February 2007. The labels on the products included claims about the products’ mildew and mold killing/removing properties, triggering EPA’s pesticide registration requirements. However, neither product had received a pesticide “registration” from EPA. In the EPCRA portion of the complaint, EPA alleged that Valspar failed to submit certain information, thereby hampering the public’s ability to obtain accurate information about the type and amount of toxic chemicals in their community. Valspar corrected the EPCRA and FIFRA violations as of spring 2007.

Source:

<http://www.wickedlocal.com/newburyport/news/business/x1874990310/Newburyport-paint-stain-manufacturer-settles-with-EPA-for-hazardous-chemical-violations>

6. *May 10, Times Daily* – (Alabama) **Chemical plant ends production in Shoals.** Occidental Chemical Co. has completed the phasing out of its chlor-alkali operation in Muscle Shoals, Alabama, a process that utilizes mercury to produce chlorine and other chemicals. A senior director of communications for Occidental Petroleum Corp. said the shutdown eliminates the company’s chlor-alkali mercury cell production in the United States. Company officials said Occidental converted its plant in Taft, Louisiana, to replace the potassium hydroxide produced in Muscle Shoals. Occidental Corp. will continue to have a presence in Muscle Shoals through its Armand Products division. Armand Products will continue operating its potassium carbonate manufacturing facility at the Muscle Shoals site for “as long as it continues to be profitable.” Local officials said the company, with production concluded, is in the process of decommissioning the plant. That process will include demolition of some buildings at the site as well as cleanup. Company officials said the chemicals produced at the plant were used in the manufacturing of soap and detergent, plastics, crop protection materials and pharmaceutical products.

Source: <http://www.timesdaily.com/article/20080510/NEWS/805100327/1011>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste Sector

7. *May 10, Boston Herald* – (Massachusetts) **Nuke plant strike nears.** Three hundred workers at Plymouth’s Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station in Massachusetts are gearing up

for a potential strike next week if contract talks are not resolved. Members of the Utilities Workers Union of America Local 369 say they are not optimistic about reaching a new agreement and are prepared to walk off the job Thursday at the facility. Pilgrim's owner, Entergy, is already training workers, brought in from other states, to keep Pilgrim running if a strike occurs. An Entergy spokesman said yesterday that the company has a required "contingency plan" that it recently filed with the federal government in the event of a strike. The president of Local 369 said he cannot see how Entergy can run Pilgrim without its 300 workers. Pilgrim employs about 650 people. Disputes over health-care benefits, pay, and work rules are at the center of the talks. Source: <http://www.bostonherald.com/business/general/view.bg?articleid=1093018>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Defense Industrial Base Sector

8. *May 11, USA Today* – (National) **Defense secretary praises MRAPs as lifesavers.** Few troops have been killed or wounded by roadside bomb attacks in Iraq while riding in new armored vehicles, the U.S. defense secretary said, evidence of the value of the vehicles he made the military's top priority. In about 150 attacks, six percent of U.S. troops have been injured or killed while in Mine Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) vehicles, including six deaths, he said. Humvees have had a 22 percent casualty rate. Even attacks on Abrams tanks are more than twice as likely to produce casualties than attacks on MRAPs. "They are considered the vehicle of choice," he said Friday, exactly a year after he announced that he was making MRAPs his top priority. Since then, more than 14,000 vehicles have been ordered. The Pentagon may order a few thousand more of the trucks, which cost about \$1 million each. The truck's raised chassis and V-shaped hull deflect the force of bombs buried in roads.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/news/military/2008-05-11-gates_n.htm

9. *May 2008, National Defense* – (National) **Urban surveillance still falling short, say Army commanders.** Army commanders need more sophisticated aerial surveillance sensors to give them a wider, more detailed view of the complex urban battlefield, officials said. Commanders want to use next-generation intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance to track patterns and behaviors over the entire cityscape. The military currently has a limited wide-area surveillance capability that only provides "pockets" of information. The Army has relied for years on images provided by large drones such as the Global Hawk and Predator, but those only give a "soda straw" view of the battlefield. The commander of the Army Intelligence Center at Fort Huachuca said the service is looking to get wide area surveillance and persistent, full-motion video coupled with electro-optical and radar technologies to provide more precise information. The Army also wants sensors that can detect areas of interest and tell another sensor to stare at that spot. Advances in persistent surveillance could also help soldiers spot activity that is difficult to trace, such as bomb planting.

Source: <http://www.nationaldefensemagazine.org/issues/2008/May/UrbanSurv.htm>

10. *May 2008, National Defense* – (National) **Army starts over with aerial common sensor.** The Army is making a second attempt at a failed joint program to create a

manned aerial platform designed to provide persistent surveillance over battlefields. The aerial common sensor (ACS) was until 2006 a joint Army-Navy program designed to replace three reconnaissance and surveillance aircraft. At that point, the Army cancelled the project because of weight issues. The future ACS will still be required to perform tasks in a major regional conflict such as locating enemy tanks or troops. One of the goals is to reduce the time it takes from when a target is acquired to when action can be taken against it. The airframe could be either a turbo-prop or business jet in the under-100,000-pound class. The airframe should last 20 years, but not necessarily the surveillance equipment on board. The new platform will not be deployed until 2016, so the two aircraft it is replacing – the airborne reconnaissance-low and the Guardrail common sensor – are receiving \$500 million worth of upgrades. These upgrades will likely be transferred to the first generation of ACS.

Source: <http://www.nationaldefensemagazine.org/issues/2008/May/ArmyStarts.htm>

11. *May 2008, National Defense* – (National) **Technology upgrades give edge to ground-attack pilots.** Only in the past two years have A-10 pilots moved into the digital age with the Thunderbolt II, which has become the weapon of choice for ground units pinned down by enemy fire. Along with a wing replacement program, the interior of the aircraft is being updated with new digital cockpit displays, improved flight controller sticks and throttles, and reconfigured control panels. Advanced targeting pods will give pilots better tools to conduct surveillance and accurately deploy weapons. Finally, the airplanes will be able to accept targeting information digitally and send text messages to the ground. The situational awareness data link being installed in the A-10s will digitally connect pilots to a network of combat communications systems. Joint terminal attack controllers on the ground can relay targeting information long before the pilot arrives at the point of contact. “The airframe is an old airframe, but with these advancements, we anticipate flying for another 20 years,” the 355th Fighter Wing commander said.

Source: <http://www.nationaldefensemagazine.org/issues/2008/May/Tech.htm>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Banking and Finance Sector

12. *May 12, vnunet.com* – (National) **Spammers fill up on petrol scam.** Spammers have pounced on rising gasoline prices in the U.S. by offering bogus fuel discounts. The spam directs the user to a link which claims to offer a 70 cent discount on each gallon of gasoline. The spam originates from a sender using the alias ‘Gas Saver.’ Researchers say that the new format is somewhat unusual. Spam emails are usually devoted to financial scams, malware propagation or products such as pharmaceuticals. Security firm McAfee said that the fuel discount spam currently accounts for less than 0.2 per cent of all spam, but that this could escalate if fuel prices continue to rise over the summer. “Given the high price of oil it is not surprising that a spammer has started selling a product which claims to reduce gas bills,” said a McAfee researcher.

Source: <http://www.vnunet.com/vnunet/news/2216339/spammers-fill-gas-scam>

13. *May 12, Star Tribune* – (Minnesota) **2 sentenced in Twin Cities bank fraud of more than \$2.3 million.** Two of six defendants have been sentenced for their part in mortgage

fraud that cost Twin Cities, Minnesota area banks more than \$2.3 million. Both admitted to conspiracy to commit mail and bank fraud. The scheme involved filing false information to banks and mortgage lenders to help applicants get loans between 2000 and August 2004. They concealed the fact that a brokerage called First Rate Mortgage Group actually had lent applicants money for their down payments, according to the U.S. Attorney's Office. In addition, the defendants submitted loan applications that included inflated financial information, false employment information, forged signatures, and phony and altered pay stubs. In one case in 2004, the defendants submitted fraudulent documents so that a borrower could buy property in Wayzata with a \$1.33 million loan from Washington Mutual Bank and a \$378,555 loan from Associated Bank, the government said.

Source: <http://www.startribune.com/local/18856889.html>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Transportation Sector

14. *May 12, WKBW 7 Buffalo* – (New York) **Security breach at Buffalo Airport.** The ticketing area at the Buffalo-Niagara International Airport, New York, was crowded with hundreds of passengers shortly after 5:00 Sunday evening after all travelers waiting in concourses were brought back for re-screening after a security breach. All outbound passengers were re-screened after a woman bypassed security shortly after 4:00 p.m. Officials say she did it by going into the concourse through the exit only area, and security personnel apparently did not notice. The woman headed to the Jet Blue gate to catch a flight to New York City. According to Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority officials, she told a gate employee she had not been screened by security. The employee called airport police, who notified Transportation Security Administration, setting off the process of clearing everyone out of the concourses. Arriving passengers were stuck on the runways while this went on. Authorities say the entire concourse sweep took about 45 minutes, and they believe the woman did not mean to breach security and it was an innocent mistake, but it is one that is raising serious questions.

Source: <http://www.wkbw.com/news/local/18850874.html>

15. *May 12, CNN* – (Florida) **Wildfire battle continues as interstate reopens.** Wildfires scorched two counties in eastern Florida Sunday, closing a major interstate and forcing the evacuation of some coastal residents. Interstate 95 reopened Monday, in time for the morning rush hour. It had been shut down in both directions from U.S. Highway 192 to the Indian River County line. Thick smoke continued to drift across the highway, according to CNN affiliate Central Florida News 13. A state trooper told the station that visibility on the interstate was less than 10 feet.

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2008/US/05/12/florida.wildfires/index.html>

16. *May 12, Star Tribune* – (Ohio) **Was Ohio bridge scare a warning?** When the Interstate 90 bridge over Ohio's Grand River buckled and nearly collapsed 12 years ago, painters under the deck scrambled for stable ground and highway officials ordered a shutdown that lasted through five months of repairs. Investigators determined what was then a unique cause for the failure: Undersized and corroded gusset plates that were too thin to

withstand an unusual load of construction vehicles and heavy equipment parked on the bridge that day. With those factors eerily similar to preliminary findings in the I-35W bridge collapse in Minneapolis, victims and others are now asking why Minnesota transportation officials did not learn lessons from the near-disaster in Ohio. It is unclear exactly what Minnesota Department of Transportation officials knew about the Ohio incident, which was not widely publicized at the time. The issue will go public Tuesday in a report by lawyers investigating the I-35W bridge collapse for the state Legislature.

Source:

<http://www.thetrucker.com/News/Stories/2008/5/12/Ohiointerstatebridgehadgussetplateissues12yearsago.aspx>

17. *May 11, Peoria Journal Star* – (Illinois) **Peoria man with ammunition in bag stopped at airport.** A Peoria, Illinois, man was allowed to board a plane Friday morning at Greater Peoria Regional Airport after police found an ammo clip and nine .22 caliber bullets in his carry-on bag. The man was boarding a plane headed to Chicago at 11:30 a.m. when Peoria County sheriff's deputies stopped him for questioning. He told police he was an employee of Security Services Inc., an independent security firm based in Peoria, and showed them an SSI employee ID card. He also said he must have forgotten to take the ammo clip and bullets out of his bag before coming to the airport. A deputy contacted SSI to confirm the suspect's employment, and a SSI representative said he was not an employee but had worked there before. The man was allowed to board the plane, although the ammunition and ammo clip were detained and logged as evidence. Police later spoke with SSI's owner, who said the man was an SSI employee for about 30 days but had not worked there since July 2007 and that he was not firearm-trained, nor was he supposed to have an SSI ID card, which he said he had lost after leaving SSI. Source: http://www.pjstar.com/stories/051108/TRI_BGJDEI6F.006.php

18. *May 11, WNBC 4 New York* – (New Jersey) **Derailed train causes hazmat situation in N.J.** News 4 New York reported a train derailment in Woodbridge, New Jersey, in which up to 12 cars carrying tankers with potentially dangerous chemicals were overturned. The train had been carrying tanker cars that contained vinyl acetate -- a chemical that can cause severe irritation, including corneal burns, redness and swelling to the eyes. It also has proven carcinogenic in animals after long-term exposure. Officials said it is unclear if any of the tankers leaked. Areas within five blocks of the scene were being evacuated as a precaution. No injuries had been reported. Source: <http://www.wnbc.com/news/16233258/detail.html>

19. *May 11, Associated Press* – (California) **Air cargo container with radioactive material leaks near LAX.** A hazardous materials response team was called to a freight facility near Los Angeles International Airport Saturday after an air cargo container holding low-grade radioactive material was exposed, authorities said. The container was punctured, possibly by the machines used for cargo handling, a Los Angeles Fire Department spokesman said. Firefighters quickly isolated and removed the parcel, the official said. No one was injured and no evacuation was ordered. Source: http://www.examiner.com/a-1385482~Air_cargo_container_with_radioactive_material_leaks_near_LAX.html

20. *May 10, Kitsap Sun* – (Washington) **Edmonds ferry terminal reopens following bomb threat.** The Edmonds ferry terminal has been reopened following a bomb threat Saturday morning, according to the Washington State Ferries. Passengers traveling from Kingston experienced lengthy delays. Ferry officials declined to elaborate on information surrounding the threat.

Source: <http://www.kitsapsun.com/news/2008/may/10/bomb-threat-closes-edmonds-ferry-terminal/>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Postal and Shipping Sector

21. *May 10, Salem News* – (Massachusetts) **Suspicious white powder prompts quarantine at jail.** Around 10:20 a.m., a secretary at the Essex County Sheriff's Department opened an envelope that turned out to be filled with a white powder. "When she opened it, there was a white powder. In the spirit of 9/11, unfortunately, and never being too careful, the Police Department and then the Fire Department were notified, and they called the area hazmat team," a Sheriff's Department spokesman said. The 18 people quarantined were released after 1:30 p.m., but state investigators are still trying to figure out what the powder is. State police and the Federal Bureau of Investigation responded to the incident. The envelope had a postmark of South Portland, Maine, and was not addressed to any particular person at the Sheriff's Department.

Source: http://www.salemnews.com/punews/local_story_130200506.html

22. *May 9, KHQ 6 Spokane* – (Washington) **Powder found at Washington Trust Bank not harmful.** Hazardous Materials crews determined that a suspicious powder discovered in a letter at the Washington Trust building in Spokane, Washington, Friday morning is not harmful to humans. Officials say the powder, a metallic additive used in lubricants, was found in a letter addressed to an attorneys' office. Police who are working to find out where the letter originated say a postal inspector is going through the evidence to determine whether an actual crime was committed. They said they are not sure the letter was meant to harass the recipient. On Thursday, a federal building downtown was evacuated after a suspicious substance was discovered in a letter at the Post Office. HazMat crews determined that the letter, sent to a Spokane judge from a Florida inmate, contained only crushed antacid.

Source: http://www.khq.com/Global/story.asp?S=8300837&nav=menu438_2

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Agriculture and Food Sector

23. *May 12, USAgNet* – (North Dakota) **ND governor declares statewide ag drought emergency.** With extended dry conditions across the state and little significant rainfall in the forecast, North Dakota's governor Friday declared a statewide "early phase agricultural drought emergency." "We have the potential for continuing dry conditions that could cause real hardship to farmers and ranchers across the state," he said. "We've

had no appreciable precipitation in many areas of the state and this may pose a problem for crop production and for livestock water needs later on this summer.” There was little snowfall cover this winter in many areas of the state, and precipitation this spring has been well below normal, creating abnormally dry conditions. Consequently, livestock water sources are dry because they were not replenished by spring runoff. This, coupled with dry conditions, low subsoil moisture levels, high winds, and lack of rainfall, will have a detrimental impact on crop and pasture conditions.

Source: <http://www.usagnet.com/story-national.php?Id=1134&yr=2008>

24. *May 12, FarmFutures.com* – (National) **COOL implementation could benefit from NAIS.** Country-of-Origin labeling (COOL) is to be implemented by the U.S. Department of Agriculture in 2008. According to the USDA undersecretary of marketing and regulatory programs, the technology of tracking identification numbers in the proposed National Animal Identification System (NAIS) may be beneficial to COOL. Under the NAIS business plan, each animal’s 15 digit identification number begins with three digits that identify the country. “That animal doesn’t need any more identification papers; doesn’t need anything more than what is currently in that animal’s ear,” the undersecretary says. “So these first waves of adopters of National Animal ID System will also be at the front of the line with compliance under COOL.”

Source:

<http://www.farmfutures.com/ME2/dirmod.asp?sid=CD26BEDECA4A4946A1283CC7786AEB5A&nm=News&type=news&mod=News&mid=9A02E3B96F2A415ABC72CB5F516B4C10&tier=3&nid=DEACD6D1BCCE434B98184F3A3F4F09B1>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Water Sector

25. *May 11, WWL 4 New Orleans* – (Louisiana) **Chemical spill in Algiers.** The residue of a chemical used to purify water was spilled on the streets of Algiers, Louisiana, Sunday morning near the Algiers River Intake Station. The residue of ferric sulfate poses no threat to the public, according to a statement from the New Orleans Sewerage and Water Board, but direct contact could cause irritation of eyes and skin. The New Orleans Police Department blocked off the area, and the New Orleans Fire Department’s Hazmat Unit went to neighbors asking them to stay indoors until the chemical is removed, according to the Sewerage and Water Board. Sewerage and Water contacted an environmental cleanup crew to “neutralize the chemical and dispose of it safely.”

Source: <http://www.wwltv.com/local/stories/wwl051108mlleak.ee2925c4.html>

26. *May 11, McClatchy Newspapers* – (National) **Study documents chemicals in U.S. coastal waters.** A newly released 20-year study shows overall levels of pesticides and industrial chemicals in U.S. coastal waters are generally decreasing. The Mussel Watch program of the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration examined levels of 140 chemicals from 1986 to 2005 in coastal areas and estuaries of Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, the East and West coasts, the Gulf of Mexico, and the Great Lakes. An oceanographer who is the lead scientist of the program said the levels are continuing to decrease, many years after environmental laws were enacted in the 1970s. “Different

regions have different stories,” he said, with some contaminants increasing in some regions. But, “when you look at all the numbers and evaluate them statistically, it shows that on a national basis, concentrations are going down.” The pesticide DDT shows significant decreasing trends around the country, even in southern California, which had the heaviest concentrations. Industrial chemicals, such as PCBs, a material used in electrical products, including transformers, also show declines. No overall national trends could be determined for trace metals. High levels of metals and organic contaminants remain near urban and industrial areas.

Source: <http://www.kansascity.com/news/nation/story/615737.html>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Public Health and Healthcare Sector

27. *May 12, Associated Press* – (International) **5 more die in China of child virus, bringing death toll to 39.** Five more children have died of hand, foot, and mouth disease in China, bringing the death toll to 39 since late March, the official Xinhua News Agency said Monday. The virus has sickened 24,934 children in six provinces, Xinhua said. Cases have cropped up from Guangdong province in the south to Jilin province in the northeast, along with major cities such as Beijing and Shanghai. Health experts have said they expect the number of reported infections to rise as a result of a Ministry of Health order last week requiring health care providers to report infections within 24 hours. The disease is expected to peak in the hot months of June and July.
Source: <http://www.iht.com/articles/ap/2008/05/12/news/China-Child-Virus.php>
28. *May 12, BBC* – (International) **Cull after bird flu hits S Korea.** South Korean officials say they have killed the entire poultry population of Seoul to curb the spread of bird flu. Quarantine officers destroyed 15,000 chickens, ducks, and turkeys in restaurants and across the capital. The cull began just hours after the authorities recorded Seoul’s second outbreak of the virus in a week. Tests are being carried out to determine if the outbreak was the deadly H5N1 strain. The virus was detected in southern parts of the country last month forcing the slaughter of nearly seven million birds. The government is now concentrating on preventing live poultry from being brought into Seoul.
Source: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/asia-pacific/7395743.stm>
29. *May 10, San Francisco Chronicle* – (California) **Center workers sickened by norovirus.** San Francisco public health officials are warning of an outbreak of norovirus that has sickened dozens of people at Moscone Center. About 70 people who fell ill had been at the Moscone Center between April 30 and May 1, authorities said Friday. All but three were staff members working at the center. The source of the virus has not yet been identified, but generally norovirus is passed when an infected person spreads microbes either by preparing food or sharing plates or utensils, said the San Francisco Department of Public Health assistant director of policy and planning.
Source: <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2008/05/09/BAB910JRM3.DTL>

Government Facilities Sector

Nothing to Report

Emergency Services Sector

30. *May 12, Baraboo News Republic* – (Wisconsin) **911 tracking funds to expire.** County officials in Wisconsin are calling for the extension of a surcharge on cell phone users created to help local governments purchase federally mandated cell phone 911 tracking systems technology. The state budget repair bill likely will not include a proposal to help counties maintain and upgrade the systems, a state senator's spokeswoman says. In 2005, Wisconsin cell phone users began paying a monthly fee that created a fund to help counties purchase cell phone tracking technology. The surcharge expires in November. Source: <http://www.wiscnews.com/bnr/news/285843>
31. *May 12, Xinhua* – (International) **Beijing medical workers undergo anti-terror training for Olympics.** About 130,000 people working in medical facilities in Beijing will start a month-long training course this week on coping with possible terrorist attacks during the Olympics. Training will focus on emergency response and dealing with nuclear, biological, or chemical terrorist strikes. The courses would be run by experts from the Academy of Military Medical Sciences, according to the Beijing News. In case of terrorist attacks, health workers will play an important role as they are responsible for emergency first aid, hospital treatment, and epidemic prevention, according to experts. Further, medical institutions hold stocks of potentially poisonous chemical, anesthetic, and radioactive materials, as well as highly pathogenic virus samples, which all carry risks of being employed by terrorists. Source: http://rss.xinhuanet.com/newsc/english/2008-05/12/content_8151200.htm
32. *May 11, Buffalo News* – (New York) **Radio system still not ready for county use, official warns.** The head of emergency services in Erie County says a new \$2 billion wireless radio system the state hopes to expand across the state has failed in a number of ways and is still not ready to be used in the county. A recent test by the state's vendor, M/A-COM, did not meet his expectations and the system would be inadequate for police and fire agencies in the county, he said. His concerns come after M/A-COM officials said in a briefing last week that a recently concluded test had exceeded its contract requirement for providing coverage across Erie and Chautauqua counties. Last year a test revealed large portions of Buffalo could not receive the radio signals. He said he was upset that the company and state officials made it seem like the system had been greatly improved from the earlier test last year. He added that officials from numerous state and local agencies had an all-day conference call last week outlining some of the system's problems. "It's not public safety grade ready at this point," he said. Source: <http://www.buffalonews.com/nationalworld/state/story/343930.html>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Information Technology

33. *May 12, IDG News Service* – (National) **Hackers create their own social network.**

Hackers now have their own social network, backed by GnuCitizen, a high-profile “ethical hacking” group. The network, called House of Hackers, has signed up more than 1,000 members since its launch earlier this week, according to the site. GnuCitizen set up the network in order to promote collaboration among security researchers. The site’s founders said they use “hacker” in the complementary sense. The term “should all express admiration for the work of the most skilled, creative, clever, unique, provocative, intelligent, intense, intriguing and interesting people among the human society,” said GnuCitizen in a message on the House of Hackers website. “We do not promote criminal activities. The network is designed to enable its members to exchange ideas with each other, communicate, form groups, elite circles and tiger/red teams, conglomerate around projects and participate in a hacker recruitment market.” The site’s founder said the ability to create groups on the network could be useful for setting up ad-hoc penetration testing teams. He suggested organizers could use the site’s events features to test the water for planned events. GnuCitizen is encouraging businesses to use the site to seek out security researchers for jobs or particular projects. GnuCitizen was founded in 2005 and has been credited with some high-profile security research of late, including vulnerabilities involving SNMP and BT Home Hub Wi-Fi routers.

Source:

http://www.infoworld.com/archives/emailPrint.jsp?R=printThis&A=/article/08/05/12/Hackers-create-their-own-social-network_1.html

34. *May 12, infoZine* – (International) **Hacker posts confidential information about six million Chileans online.** IT security and control firm Sophos is reminding organizations around the world about the importance of data security following news that a hacker in Chile has posted personal details about six million Chileans online. According to reports in the Chilean media, the hacker, known as ‘Anonymous Coward’ hacked into government and military servers and stole data including ID card numbers, addresses, telephone numbers, emails and academic records. He then posted the information on a Chilean technology blog before the owners of the site contacted authorities and removed the links. The Chilean newspaper El Mercurio reported that the hacker had committed the offence in order ‘to demonstrate how poorly protected data in Chile is’. “Chile may seem far away to many computer users, but the scale of this data breach should not be ignored,” said a senior technology consultant for Sophos. “No matter how moral or ethical the hacker’s motives, this prank was irresponsible and has left almost 40 percent of Chile’s population at risk of identity theft. Organizations around the world need to take this issue seriously and defend against these risks. The consequences of falling victim to such an attack can be much more far reaching than a simple fine, including irreversible damage to your reputation and customer confidence.” Sophos recommends that all businesses ensure that their computers are properly defended against the threat of hackers and malware, and are using a consolidated solution which can control network access and ensure security patches are in place.

Source: <http://www.infozine.com/news/stories/op/storiesView/sid/28341/>

35. *May 11, Xinhua* – (International) **S Korea, U.S. consider more drills against cyber attacks.** South Korea and the U.S. are considering conducting more drills against cyber attacks in their annual defense exercise, South Korea's Yonhap News Agency reported on Sunday. The two nations are also discussing the possibility of reinforcing drills against cyber attacks starting from this year's Ulchi Focus Guardian exercise, an unnamed South Korean military official said. The drill, if conducted, will involve a number of intelligence and Internet security officials from various organizations, including the country's Defense Security Command. According to the South Korean Defense Ministry, a total of 278 computers at 10 government offices and institutes, such as the Korea Institute of Defense Analysis and the Korea Atomic Energy Research Institute, were infected with viruses in 2004. The military's systems have so far been free of hacking attempts as they run on an intranet, completely cut off from the Internet. Source: http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2008-05/11/content_8147619.htm
36. *May 11, CNet News Blog* – (National) **Flaw turns Gmail into spamming machine.** A "serious security flaw" in Gmail turns Google's e-mail service into a spamming machine, according to a recent security report. INSERT (the Information Security Research Team), has created a proof of concept that exploits the "trust hierarchy" that exists between mail service providers. By exploiting a flaw in the way Google forwards messages, a spammer can send thousands of bulk e-mails through Google's SMTP service, avoiding Google's 500-address bulk e-mail limit and identity fraud protections. The report notes that with the rising volume of spam, e-mail providers have turned to whitelists and blacklists to help root out IP addresses of known spammers. Because Gmail falls into the trusted-whitelist category, messages are allowed "carte blanche" to bypass spam filtering. INSERT's report notes that no extraordinary Internet expertise is required to exploit the flaw. Google has offered no official comment on the report. Source: http://www.news.com/8301-10784_3-9941156-7.html?part=rss&subj=news&tag=2547-1_3-0-5
37. *May 9, IDG News Service* – (National) **Hackers find a new place to hide rootkits.** Security researchers have developed a new type of malicious rootkit software that hides itself in an obscure part of a computer's microprocessor, hidden from current antivirus products. Called a System Management Mode (SMM) rootkit, the software runs in a protected part of a computer's memory that can be locked and rendered invisible to the operating system, but which can give attackers a picture of processes in a computer's memory. The SMM rootkit comes with keylogging and communications software and could be used to steal sensitive information. The proof-of-concept software will be unveiled for the first time at the Black Hat security conference in Las Vegas this August. Source: http://www.pcworld.com/businesscenter/article/145703/hackers_find_a_new_place_to_hide_rootkits.html

Internet Alert Dashboard

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Website: <http://www.us-cert.gov>.

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: <https://www.it-isac.org/>.

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Communications Sector

38. *May 11, Broadband Reports* – (National) **Wireless companies crack down on phone spam.** Cell phone spam is on the rise with one prediction being that wireless customers are going to receive one and a half billion unsolicited text messages this year (double what the rate was for 2006). Wireless companies have been accused of supporting phone spam because they profit from those people without text message plans who receive spam. The companies respond that they are opposed to cell phone spam because it makes their customers irate and because they want to exploit the opportunity for cell phone marketing in the future and do not want customers completely turned off to the idea of cell phone spam. As a result, wireless companies are taking action to protect customers. Sprint has a filter in place to catch spam before it gets to your phone; reportedly two thirds of all text messages sent on the network are identified as spam and blocked. Verizon uses a combination of blocking mass spammers and filing lawsuits about the issue. AT&T notes that all three major wireless companies have agreed to share information about text spammers to make solving the problem more efficient. Source: <http://www.dslreports.com/shownews/Wireless-Companies-Crack-Down-on-Phone-Spam-94314>

39. *May 9, WPTZ 5 Plattsburgh* – (New York) **Verizon gets approval for Northway cell tower.** Verizon Wireless has permission to build a fourth cell-phone tower along the Adirondack Northway as part of its plan to fill a service gap along remote stretches of the upstate New York interstate. The Adirondack Park Agency said Verizon can build the 94-foot tower, which will be disguised to look like a pine tree, at Schroon Falls, about 100 miles north of Albany. That is on the southern edge of a 47-mile so-called “dark zone” on the Northway. Verizon started adding towers to the Northway after a Brooklyn man crashed and froze to death in January 2007, unable to call for help. The death prompted a public outcry, and state officials, environmentalists and the phone company forged an agreement to add towers that blend into the landscape. Source: <http://www.wptz.com/news/16211821/detail.html>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Commercial Facilities Sector

Nothing to Report

[\[Return to top\]](#)

National Monuments & Icons Sector

Nothing to Report

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Dams Sector

40. *May 12, News & Observer* – (North Carolina) **NC dam rated ‘conditionally unsafe.’** In North Carolina, the Falls Lake dam itself is sound and can be made even safer, according to the engineers who run it. But the federal engineers who manage the lake now are warning of an unlikely but conceivable catastrophe: If the lake’s earthen dam ever ruptured because of a structural failure, extraordinarily high water, or sabotage, a freshwater tsunami would swamp the Neuse River valley from north Raleigh to Kinston, blasting away bridges, obliterating riverside homes, inundating parts of Smithfield and Goldsboro, and possibly drowning dozens or hundreds of people – perhaps with no warning. Because of that, Falls Lake’s dam recently scored a middle safety rating of “conditionally unsafe.” Wake County’s emergency management director said he has no study or report of the likely effects of a dam failure and flood. Nor does the Corps, Raleigh, or the state plan to buy and clear the Neuse bottomland, local, state, and federal officials said. Corps officials say that to deter terrorism, they cannot let the public see their map of the likely extent of the inundation. But they say it would extend somewhat beyond a 500-year-storm floodplain, a line state and local governments use for land-use planning. Such a deluge also would jeopardize, at least, the 16 highway bridges and three railroad bridges over the Neuse River.
Source: http://www.charlotte.com/breaking_news/story/620251.html

41. *May 9, Associated Press* – (Texas) **Audit finds problems with Texas’ dam safety program.** The state’s system for keeping dams in Texas inspected and maintained is unable to keep up with the 7,600-dam inventory, a state audit said. A 60-page report by the State Auditor’s Office identified weaknesses in nearly all key areas of the dam safety program, including inspections, enforcement, information management, and emergency response procedures. The audit did say the safety program run by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality has gotten better over the last four years. It cited the state’s high number of dams as a major contributing factor for shortcomings in the program.
Source: <http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/ap/tx/5767891.html>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

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